

## REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-20, 22 and 23 under 35 USC 103(a). These rejections are fully traversed below.

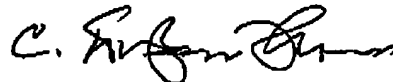
Claims 16 and 23 have been amended to further clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Entry of these amendments would neither create substantial new issues nor require additional searching. Still further, these amendments place the claims in better form should an appeal be necessary. In addition, to expedite prosecution, claims 1-3, 6-15, 18 and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 16, 17 and 19, 20, 22 and 23 are now pending.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested based on the remarks previously received January 15, 2004 (mailed January 12, 2004).

If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant hereby petitions for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0388.

Respectfully submitted,



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